

## Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 030855Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8626

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 363

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, UNGA, BC, WA, SF

SUBJECT: UN COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA

REF: GABORONE 1648 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: UN COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA ARRIVED GABORONE AUGUST 28 AND DEPARTED SEPTEMBER 1. COUNCIL MEMBERS MET WITH EXTAFF REPS AUGUST 30, AND FOR HOUR-AND-A-HALF WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA AUGUST 31. PURPOSE OF VISIT, AS EXPRESSED BY COUNCIL AND GOB OFFICIALS IN NUMBER OF TOATS ABOUT TOWN, WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH UN MIGHT MAKE TOWARD THEIR SOLUTION. VISIT RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS AND RADIO COVERAGE, INCLUDING INTERVIEW WITH SWAPO REP ON COUNCIL. GOB CONTINUES TO WALK TIGHTROPE BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA, AND OAU IDEOLOGUES, USING RHETORIC AS BALANCING POLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. FACT-FINDING NATURE OF MISSION EMPHASIZED BY DELEGATION HEAD, AMB DUNSTAN KAMANA OF ZAMBIA, WHO STATED IN RECEPTION TOAST THAT COUNCIL DID NOT COME TO IMPOSE ANY UN SOLUTION OF THE STRUGGLE OF NAMIBIA ON BOTSWANA BUT ONLY TO LEARN FROM THOSE LIVING WITH THE SITUATION. COUNCIL MET WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES AUGUST 30. HEAD OF ACCOMPANYING UN SECRETARIAL STAFF, MARCUS REGO-MONTERIO OF BRAZIL, TOLD EMBOFF THAT THESE TALKS HAD PROGRESSED SO SATISFACTORILY AND HAD SHOWN SUCH RESOLVE ON PART OF GOB OFFICIALS THAT THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED LONG BEFORE IT WAS SCHEDULED TO END.

3. DELEGATION INCLUDED NEW YORK-BASED SWAOP REPRESENTATIVE, THEO-BEN GURIRAB, WHO, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, DID NOT GO BEYOND STANDARD SWAPO POSITION, PARTICULARLY IN INSISTENCE THAT SWAPO WOULD TAKE NOTHING LESS THAN UN-SUPERVISED ELECTION IN NAMIBIA AND WOULD REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS OF THE TURNHALLE VARIETY.

4. MEETINGS WERE ALSO HELD WITH UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES OFFICIAL AND, ACCORDING TO HIM, WITH SWANU REPS. RECEPTIONS WERE GIVEN BY ZAMBIAN AND NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. VISIT OF COUNCIL ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL SHOWINGS OF EFFECTIVE UN FILE ENTITLED "NAMIBIA, TRUST BETRAYED".

5. VISIT OF COUNCIL RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY INCLUDING THREE FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS AND FOUR ARTICLES, ONE OF WHICH PUBLISHED FULL TEXT OF GOB-COUNCIL JOINT COMMUNIQUE (SEE REFTEL). RADIO BOTSWANA CARRIED VARIOUS REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP.

6. COUNCIL MEMBERS VISITED UNIVERSITY EVENING AUGUST 31 FOR Q AND A SESSION WITH STUDENTS AND OTHERS. ALTHOUGH SPECIAL SEATS HAD BEEN SET ASIDE AT FRONT OF HALL FOR MINISTERS AND DIPLOMATS, ONLY EMBOFF AND ZAMBIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PRESENT. NO MINISTERS ATTENDED. MOST QUESTIONS ANSWERED WITH STANDARD RHETORIC WHICH FLOWED SO EARLY THAT IT SOUNDED REHEARSED. AMB KAMANA USUALLY RESPONDED ALTHOUGH ALL MEMBERS SPOKE AT LEAST ONCE.

7. MUCH OF THE TIME, GROUP WAS EXPLAINING OR DEFENDING UN SYSTEM, WHICH SOME MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE TERMED "POWERLESS". LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YUGOSLAV IN PARTICULAR BLAMED ANY LACK OF UN ABILITY TO ACT ON "CONSTANT VETOES" BY US, UK AND FRANCE. KAMANA TOLD LISTENERS THAT UN CHARTER UNDER REVIEW WITH AIM OF ELIMINATING SUCH VETOES. WHEN THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED, "BIG PRIVILEGED POWERS", WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO FRUSTRATE "WILL OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY".

8. ONLY INTERESTING PART OF EVENING WAS APPARENT DEPTH OF ANTI-SWAPO FEELING IN AUDIENCE. THERE WERE NUMEROUS QUESTIONS

ABOUT WHY OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS "SUPPRESSED". KAMANA ANSWERED FIRST SUCH QUESTION BY SAYING THE COUNCIL "DOES NOT RECOGNIZE" LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BUT GOES ONLY ON BASIS OF OAU RECOGNITION. TOLD QUESTIONER TO PRESENT CASE TO OAU. OTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS TOPIC WENT UNANSWERED AS DID COMPLAINT FROM UNIDENTIFIED NAMIBIAN THAT "COUNCIL WILL NOT MEET WITH US".

9. GROUP HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING SEPTEMBER 1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, KAMANA CALLED UPCOMING SECRETARY KISSINGER-PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MEETING AN "UNKNOWN QUANTITY" AND SAID THAT "IF TALKS ARE SUCCESSFUL, WE WILL SUPPORT THEM". KAMANA CONTINUED TO SIDESTEP SWANU PROBLEM. WHEN ASKED IF GROUP HAD MET WITH REFUGEES, KAMANA EXPLAINED THAT ANYONE WHO LEAVES NAMIBIA BECAUSE OF SAG PERSECUTION IS "NAMIBIAN PATRIOT", NOT REFUGEE. HE FURTHER REPLIED THAT COUNCIL SAW UNHCR AND HAD USEFULL DISCUSSION WITH GOB ON REFUGEE PROBLEM.

10 SWAPO REP THEO-BEN GURIRAB FIELDED SEVERAL QUESTIONS. HE SAID THAT SWAPO IS TRYING TO EDUCATE PEOPLE POLITICALLY SO THAT THEY WILL "BE AS ONE" WITH SWAPO. "WESTERN POWERES WITH VESTED ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN NAMIBIA" ARE SOWING DISSENSION AND THROWING UP ROADBLOCKS TO INDEPENDENCE. GURIRAB ALSO STATED THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN NAMIBIA WHO HAVE BEEN "CONFUSED" BY SAG PROPAGANDA (WE PRESUME THAT HE MEANT THOSE WHO OPPOSE SWAPO) AND THAT SWAPO WILL NOT HESITATE TO LIQUIDATE "TRAITORS, QUISLINGS AND STOOGES". IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT SWAPO'S APPARENT LACK OF MILITARY SUCCESS SO FAR, GURIRAB GAVE DISCOURSE ON "LIBERATION AS A PROCESS". BASES, METHODS FOR SMUGGLING OUT RECRUITS AND OTHER "INFRASTRUCTURE" NOW IN PLACE. SWAPO WILL ESCALATE MILITARY ACTION.

11. SEPTEMBER 2 DAILY NEWS ARTICLE BASED ON PRE-DEPARTURE INTERVIEW WITH GURIRAB SAYS THAT SWAPO "STILL STANDS TO BE CONVINCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS TO THE SERIOUSNESS, SINCERITY AND HONESTY" OF USG PEACE MOVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. GURIRAB QUOTED AS SAYING THAT U.S. IS "MORE THAN ANYTHING CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA -- ABOUT RUSSIAN EXPANSION AND THE THREAT OF CUBAN TROOPS. THESE ARE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LOOM LARGE IN THE MINDS OF PEOPLE LIKE DR. KISSINGER WHO IS AN ACUTE STRATEGIST IN POWER POLITICS". ARTILCEL CONTINUES THAT GURIRAB HOPES THE SECRETARY'S CONSULTATIONS WITH VORSTER "WILL NOT LEAD TO THE SELLING OUT OF OUR PEOPLE".

12. COMMENT: WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED COUNCIL WAS MANIFESTATION OF GOB' DESIRE TO REMAIN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN UN"OAU MAIN-STREAM ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. SO FAR, BOTSWANA HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS LARGELY ON THE STRENGTH OF ITS RHETORIC ALONE WITHOUT ENDANGERING ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. PERHAPS AMB KAMANA'S REMARKS ABOUT NOT IMPOSING SOLUTIONS

(SEE PARA 2) CAN BE TAKEN AS ATTEMPT TO ALLAY ANY FEARS HERE  
THAT GOB WOULD BE ASKED TO DO MORE. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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